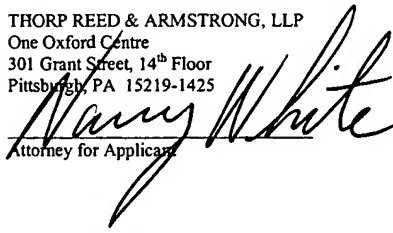


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Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action mailed 9 February 2006, please consider the instant Response and Amendment for the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.